

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174327

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT JAKARTA 9134 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CANBERRA
DATED JUL 10:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 9134

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ID

SUBJECT: INVITATION FOR US OFFICIAL TO VISIT EAST TIMOR

REF: STATE 172058

1. I HAVE JUST SEEN MAJ. GENERAL MURDANI TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER
ITEMS, THE INQUIRY FROM HIS STAFF ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY
OF THE U.S. CHARGE' D 'AFFAIRES ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT SUHARTO
TO EAST TIMOR NEXT WEEK. MURDANI SAID THE GOI DID NOT
WANT TO EMBARRASS US IN ANY WAY AND WOULD UNDERSTAND IF
THIS SUGGESTION CREATED PROBLEMS. I TOLD MURDANI THAT, WHILE
WASHINGTON HAS NOT REPEAT NOT TURNED DOWN THE PROPOSED
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INVITATION, IT OBVIOUSLY RAISED DIFFICULTIES WHICH REQUIRED
CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, AS HE WOULD UNDERSTAND FROM HIS TALKS
IN WASHINGTON AND FROM DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE INDONESIAN
AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRIOR
TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT. MURDANI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND,
MUCH AS THEY HOPED WE COULD ACCEPT, HE SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD
DROP THE SUBJECT IF IT RAISED SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

2. ASKED ABOUT THE OTHER INVITEES, MURDANI SAID THIS WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT THAT HE THOUGHT THE GOI WOULD INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINE NATIONS WHICH ATTENDED THE CEREMONY COMMEMORATING EAST TIMOR'S ACCESSION TO INDONESIA ON JULY 17, 1976. HE IDENTIFIED THESE AS THE PHILIPPINES, MALAYSIA, THAILAND, JAPAN, INDIA, SRI LANKA, IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND SOUTH KOREA. OTHER POSSIBILITIES WERE NIGERIA (WHOSE AMBASSADOR ATTENDED THE 1976 FUNCTION ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE), NEW ZEALAND (WHO WAS REPRESENTED BY ITS DCM), AUSTRALIA, CANADA, MOROCCO AND THE U.S.

3. TALKS WITH DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES SHOW THE FOLLOWING PICTURE. THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED A FAIRLY POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM CANBERRA AND WILL GO IF "THEY ARE IN GOOD COMPANY". THE LOCAL AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THE OTHER FOUR ASEAN STATES PLUS AUSTRALIA WOULD FILL THIS BILL BUT THIS WOULD REQUIRE A FINAL DECISION FROM CANBERRA. AUSTRALIA WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE MORE COMFORTABLE IF WE WERE ALONG. THE NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR, WHO HAS ALREADY VISITED EAST TIMOR, IS FULLY PREPARED TO GO AGAIN BUT HAS SOME SCHEDULING PROBLEMS. HE'S TRYING TO WORK THINGS OUT AND HOPES TO GO. FROM SECOND HAND SOURCES, WE UNDERSTAND THE JAPANESE AND THE EEC REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ASKED NOT TO BE INVITED. I AM NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS EVENING BUT ASSUME THE OTHER ASEAN STATES WILL ACCEPT.

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4. THE SITUATION AT PRESENT IS THUS AS FOLLOWS. MURDANI WILL UNDERSTAND IF WE DO NOT ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT SUHARTO BUT VERY MUCH HOPES WE CAN. SO DO THE AUSTRALIANS. GIVEN OUR ACCEPTANCE OF EAST TIMOR'S INCORPORATION INTO INDONESIA, OUR SUPPORT FOR INDONESIA'S POSITION IN THE U.N. AND OUR FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONS I HOPE WE CAN ACCEPT, PARTICULARLY IF (AS APPEARS HIGHLY LIKELY) THE AUSTRALIANS DO. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.
MASTERS UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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